

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 8, 10, 13, and 14 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A polymer composition comprising:

a polymer, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers; and

a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein during combustion of the composition, a coherent char is formed, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended): ~~A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1~~The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the second filler ~~is a known~~comprises a flame retardant filler, an inert filler or a combination thereof.

4. (Currently amended): ~~A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1~~The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

5. (Currently amended): ~~A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1,~~The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder.

6. (Currently amended): ~~A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1,~~The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of the nano-clay to the second filler is from ~~90%:10% to 10%:90% by weight,~~90:10 to 10:90 by percent weight

7. (Currently amended): ~~A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1,~~The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the total filler content is from 20% to 80% by weight.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended): A polymer composition comprising:

a polymer, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, halogenated polymers, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers; and

a synergistic flame retardant additive combination, ~~which comprises the synergistic flame retardant additive combination comprising~~ a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite, and wherein, during combustion of the polymer composition, a coherent char is formed, and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented): A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 1.

12. (Currently amended): A ~~moulded~~-molded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 1.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended): A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, ~~which method comprises the steps of comprising:~~ combining a ~~the~~ polymer composition; and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination to form a mixture, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate and their copolymers, which comprises and wherein the synergistic flame retardant comprises a nano-clay and a second filler; and wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, phenolics, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, and their copolymers.

16. (Previously presented): A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 9.

17. (Currently amended): A ~~moulded~~-molded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 9.

18. (Previously presented): A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 9.

19. (Previously presented): A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 10.

20. (Currently amended): A ~~moulded~~molded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 10.

21. (Previously presented): A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 10.

22. (New): The polymer composition of claim 9, wherein the polymer composition comprises polyvinyl chloride.

23. (New): The polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide.

24. (New): The polymer composition of claim 9, wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide.

25. (New): The method of claim 15, wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide.

26. (New): A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, comprising: combining the polymer composition and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination to form a mixture, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of at least one of polyesters, epoxy resins, ABS combinations, halogenated polymers, polyethylene, polystyrene, silicones, silicone rubbers, ethyl vinyl acetate, and their copolymers, and wherein the synergistic flame retardant comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein the second filler is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

27. (New): The method of claim 26, wherein the polymer composition comprises polyvinyl chloride.

28. (New): The method of claim 26, wherein the second filler comprises aluminum trihydroxide.